

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 02524 201247Z

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ACTION SS-30

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R 192018Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5273

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 2524

STADIS/EXDIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, JM

SUBJ: UNAUTHORIZED TRAVEL, MINISTER MATALON, AND OPERATION
BUCCANEER

REF: STATE 154135

1. I APPRECIATE DEPT'S EFFORTS OUTLINED IN PARA 1 OF REFTEL AND BELIEVE THAT, WHILE WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO KEEP TRACK OF ALL USG AGENCY VISITS TO JAMAICA, WE CAN MAKE OTHERS AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS AND ACHIEVE A SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT IN COORDINATION.

2. BUCCANEER IS UNFOLDING ROUGHLY ACCORDING TO THE ORIGINAL PLAN, ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN SOME MINOR SLIPPAGES. AS AN INTERIM RESPONSE TO PARA 2 REFTEL, I WOULD NOT RECOMMEND ANY SUBSTANTIVE MODIFICATIONS IN THE PROGRAM. THE LOCAL DEA REPS HAVE BEEN MOST COOPERATIVE AND HAVE KEPT ME INFORMED OF THEIR ACTIVITIES. WHILE THE POLITICAL RISKS REMAIN AT A MANAGEABLE LEVEL AND MATALON APPARENTLY CONTINUES TO HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE PM AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE THE EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO BE ALERT TO ANY EVIDENCE OF CHANGE IN THIS RESPECT. WE WILL BE PAYING SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE OPERATIONAL TESTING PHASE OF THE HERBICIDE PROGRAM, WHICH HAS A GREATER POTENTIAL FOR POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN THE FUTURE.

3. RE HELICOPTERS, I REMAIN CONVINCED THAT THE FOUR HELICOPTERS MENTIONED IN REFTEL ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE OVERALL OBJECTIVES OF BUCCANEER. WITHOUT THEM, THE JDF WOULD SIMPLY BE
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UNABLE TO CONDUCT THE ERADICATION CAMPAIGN AND MAINTAIN THE INTE-

GRITY OF OTHER MISSIONS WHICH WILL BE IMPORTANT TO BUCCANEER -
I.E. THE TRANSPORT OF TROOPS FOR LOCAL GROUND OPERATIONS.

4. IN ADDITION, I THINK IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF DEA WOULD CONTRIBUTE
ITS BELL UH 1-F PRESENTLY LOCATED AT MIAMI AND, WE UNDERSTAND,
NOT FULLY EMPLOYED. WE ARE AWARE OF THE MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS
CONNECTED WITH THIS MACHINE, BUT FEEL THESE MORE THAN BALANCED
BY THE UTILITY AND FLEXIBILITY THIS HELICOPTER WOULD LEND TO
BUCCANEER AT CRITICAL INITIAL PHASE, AND ESPECIALLY UNTIL ARRIVAL
OF FOUR HELICOPTERS ON LOAN FROM DOD. PROVISION OF DEA HELI-
COPTER AT TIME WHEN JDF STRETCHED TO LIMIT WOULD ALSO BE IMP-
ORTANT DEMONSTRATION GOOD FAITH OF DEA AND USG.
GERARD

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